



# 2019



## Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards

Presented by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

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[Planning.Maryland.gov/SGC](http://Planning.Maryland.gov/SGC)

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Robert McCord, Secretary of Planning  
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary of Smart Growth  
Susan Summers, Commission Chair

# The 2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards

The annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards are presented annually by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission and are the highest level of recognition for well-planned economic and community development and sustainability in the state.

The awards honor and celebrate significant achievements by individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments in their efforts to realize the “Twelve Visions” adopted by the Maryland General Assembly:

**Quality of Life and Sustainability:** A high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment.

**Public Participation:** Citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals.

**Growth Areas:** Growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers or strategically selected new centers.

**Community Design:** Compact, mixed-use, walkable design consistent with existing community character and located near available or planned transit options is encouraged to ensure efficient use of land and transportation resources and preservation and enhancement of natural systems, open spaces, recreational areas and historical, cultural and archeological resources.

**Infrastructure:** Growth areas have the water resources and infrastructure to accommodate population and business expansion in an orderly, efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.

**Transportation:** A well-maintained, multimodal transportation system facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable and efficient movement of people, goods and services within and between population and business centers.

**Housing:** A range of housing densities, types and sizes provides residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes.

**Economic Development:** Economic development and natural resource – based businesses that promote employment opportunities for all income levels within the capacity of the state’s natural resources, public services and public facilities are encouraged.

**Environmental Protection:** Land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and coastal bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems and living resources.

**Resource Conservation:** Waterways, forests, agricultural areas, open space, natural systems and scenic areas are conserved.

**Stewardship:** Government, business entities and residents are responsible for the creation of sustainable communities by collaborating to balance efficient growth with resource protection.

**Implementation:** Strategies, policies, programs and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, state and interstate levels to achieve these visions.

**The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission is seeking nominations from all parts of the state for the people, projects, organizations and communities that have advanced innovative policies in furtherance of the Twelve Visions.**





# About the Sustainable Growth Commission

## The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission is charged to:

- Assess and advise on the progress of state, regional and local planning in Maryland in achieving the goals of the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy, as defined in §5-7A-01 of this title;
- Make recommendations on the adequacy, coordination and implementation of funding mechanisms and other state assistance for planning activities and infrastructure and land preservation needs, consistent with the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy;
- Promote planning coordination and interjurisdictional cooperation among the state and local jurisdictions and recommend mechanisms to facilitate voluntary joint planning;
- Advise on the content and preparation of the state development plan, state transportation plan and state housing plan and the implementation of these plans, including the relationship with local land use plans;
- Promote and make recommendations regarding efficient and predictable model state and local development regulations to achieve the goals of state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy;
- Evaluate the continuing viability and effectiveness of the state and local government smart growth indicators contained in § 1-208 of the Land Use Article and make recommendations for amendments or additions to the indicators;
- Review the reports of local jurisdictions on adequate public facilities development restrictions required by Title 7, Subtitle 1 of the Land Use Article and assess whether and to what extent adequate public facilities ordinances affect the achievement of the goals of the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy;
- Develop and assist in the implementation of educational and outreach programs about smart growth;
- Review periodically the educational requirements for members of planning boards and commissions and boards of appeals required by § 1-206 of the Land Use Article and evaluate compliance rates for the members;
- Make recommendations for changes in state law, regulations, policies and procedures, if any, that the commission believes are necessary to achieve the state's economic growth, resource protection and planning policy; and
- Serve as an advisory board to the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet, providing advice and guidance.



# Award Types

## Leadership and Service

Awards presented for leadership and service recognize individuals, organizations, agencies, and institutions for laudable activities or accomplishments in Maryland that advance the public's appreciation, understanding and/or involvement in promoting well planned economic and community development and sustainable communities at the local, regional, or state level. The activity or service can be related to a specific project or advocacy effort, or recognize leadership or involvement with one or more activities or organizations over time. Examples of nominees include elected officials, local government staff, nonprofit organizations, or members of the local business community. The activity or service must be ongoing or have been completed within the last two years. Nominations will be evaluated based on how an individual and/or organization's contributions have significantly advanced the public's appreciation, understanding and/or involvement in well planned economic and community development and sustainable growth, or preservation and resource protection in Maryland.



## Sustainable Communities



Awards presented for sustainable communities recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, organizations, government agencies, and other entities for projects and activities of all sizes, scopes, and on all types of properties. The project/activity submitted embodies, results in, or encourages development that addresses at least one of the Twelve Visions. Successful nominations will likely address at least several of the 12 Visions. All nominated projects must have been completed within the

last two years. The Commission will evaluate nominations in two broad groups – (1) public projects and programs, and (2) private developments.

Nominations will be evaluated based on:

**Effectiveness** – What are the goals of the project and is there tangible evidence of success?

**Collaboration** – What public outreach and community involvement has occurred and how did it influence the project?

**Innovation** – Does the project or activity take a new approach or present new ideas for others to apply elsewhere?

**Responsiveness to Environmental and Community Impact** – Does the project or activity improve the environment or the quality of life in the community?

## Preservation / Conservation Projects

Preservation/Conservation Project awards are presented to individuals, organizations, government agencies, and other entities for their accomplishments in protecting or improving farms, forests, natural resources, and the waters of Maryland. This award recognizes outstanding efforts to:

- Save Maryland's farm and forest land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices and supporting a sustainable future for farms;
- Promote habitat management and wildlife conservation; and
- Protect the environment and advancing conservation practices. All nominated projects must have been completed within the last two years.

Nominations will be evaluated as to how the project:

- Directly or indirectly benefits agricultural preservation, wildlife, natural resource conservation or environmental protection;
- Collaboratively involves public and private organizations; and
- Serves as an example/inspiration to others.





# How to Submit a Nomination

## Eligibility

- Individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations or institutions, and federal, state and local agencies are all eligible to receive Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards.
- Current Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) staff, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission members, and projects solely sponsored by Planning are not eligible.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- July 1, 2018- Nomination materials available
- September 21, 2018- Nominations due to Planning
- December 2018- Nominees notified
- Spring 2019 - Award Ceremony

## Review and Selection Process

The annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards are presented by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. All nomination materials are reviewed for completeness by Planning staff prior to presentation to a committee of the Commission. This committee then recommends the award recipients to the full Commission for consideration and final approval.

